

**REMARKS**

The Examiner's Action mailed on December 23, 2005, has been received and its contents carefully considered. Additionally attached to this Amendment is a Petition for a Three-month Extension of Time, extending the period for response to June 23, 2006.

In this Amendment, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to include the subject matter of allowable claim 10 and intervening claims 5 and 7, editorially amended claims 4, 6, 11 and 13, canceled claims 5 and 7-10, and added claim 22. Claims 1 and 22 are the independent claims, and claims 1-4, 6 and 11-22 are pending in the application. For at least the following reasons, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

Initially, it is noted with great appreciation that the Examiner considers the subject matter of original dependent claim 10 as being allowable over the art of record. In response, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 10, as well as intervening claims 5 and 7, thus rendering the Examiner's prior art rejections moot, and thereby placing claim 1, and the claims dependent therefrom, in *prima facie* condition for allowance. However, in amending claim 1, and as discussed with the Examiner on June 14, 2006, it was noted that original claim 10 recited second-conductive-type semiconductor layers. However, this feature had not been presented within independent claim 1, nor intervening claims 5 and 7. Thus, claim 1 has been additionally amended to recite that the semiconductor device includes a second-conductive-type semiconductor layer, in order to provide antecedent basis for this feature. Moreover, and as discussed with the Examiner during the above-noted

telephone conference, it was not believed that the second-conductive-type semiconductor layer was necessary in order to help distinguish over the art of record, in view of the Examiner's rejection of dependent claim 4, which also recited this feature. As such, Applicants have also presented a new independent claim 22, which is similar in scope to amended allowed claim 1, but instead of reciting the "second-conductive-type semiconductor layers", this claim replaces that particular term with "semiconductor devices". It is submitted that this claim is likewise patentably distinguishable over the cited references for reasons similar to amended independent claim 1. It is requested that these claims all be allowed.

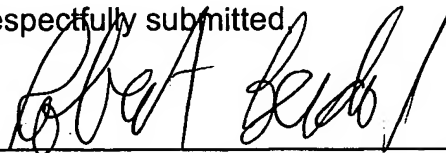
It is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Such action and the passing of this case to issue are requested.

Should the Examiner feel that a conference would help to expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

Should the remittance be accidentally missing or insufficient, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 18-0002, and advise us accordingly.

June 15, 2006  
Date

Respectfully submitted,



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AMENDMENT  
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